

WASHINGTON, December 16, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR:—Before leaving Washington I deem it expedient to place in writing a few suggestions, springing directly from our recent correspondence and conversations in reference to the suppression of the African slave trade.

“There can be no question, I think, that the matter calls for prompt and energetic action.

“It is to be remembered, in the first place, that the prosecutions against Corrie in Carolina, and Brown, Farnum and others in Georgia, upon the successful issue of which depends so much, require the development of such additional evidence as may be necessary to place them in full force before the courts in the early spring.

“But important as, doubtless, the elicitation of this evidence is, with a view to its use in the Southern cases, the effect to be produced upon the public mind of the South, and more especially upon the minds of Southern jurors by active proceedings and prosecutions at the North for like offenses, is of far more consequence. The character of the investigations which it is contemplated should be made, of itself, requires prompt action. Since the arrest of Farnum, which must be regarded as the beginning of the end, nothing is to be gained, and much may be lost by delay.

“I therefore propose, if it meet the sanction of your better judgment, to return to Washington so soon as I can make the requisite arrangements at home, to commence the investigation upon such scale as may, for the present, be deemed advisable. I am most decidedly of opinion that, with a view to success, the work should be set on foot, if not consummated, prior to any action whatever in Congress which might tend to fix public attention upon our movements.

“As regards the fund necessary for the business, I would say that I believe I shall be enabled to secure the services of